

Bingen, on the Rhinegau, July 24, 1850.
 Dear papa, I hope you have written to me!

Dear Father & Mother

Dr. Gray still takes the labor of keeping up the journal of our travels; for my eyes, though much better, are not equal to writing or any such use. How much I have thought of you, dear Father, during these last few days; for I never realized before the trouble of not being able to look at anything, to say nothing of the pain and discomfort. Dr. Gray has written the letters lately in my name; tho. I must say I am often quite ignorant of their contents (being unwilling ^{often} after I am sound asleep). So, I am afraid that the valuable reflections "Christenheit's morales," which I have invariably made on so many topics, are forever lost to my family & friends. [One comfort is they will never know what they have lost]. Dr. G. keeps putting in a running commentary of remarks. I believe Dr. G. wrote briefly of our doings up to Monday afternoon, leaving us at Bonn, which is beautifully situated on the west bank of the Rhine; just where the plain country terminates, and the bold hills of the fine Rhine-scenery commence. In the afternoon Dr. G. & Dr. Boerner (a gentleman to whom Dr. G. had letters) escorted me up to Pöppelendorf. The University of Bonn occupies the Palace of the former Elector of Cologne ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile long, with a fine lawn & avenues of trees before it (& our hotel at the foot of the grounds); and on the other side an avenue of fine trees, each side of a green ~~square~~ lawn, leads straight up to the old Schloss Pöppelendorf; the country chateau, formerly of the Elector; it is built around a circular court. The lower story contains the museum of Natural History, in rooms still ornamented with the old decorations, paintings in fresco, & stucco-work. Part of the mineralogical cabinet occupies a quaint & singular ~~room~~ ^{salon}, made to represent a grotto; the walls & ceiling entirely covered with crystals, shells, &c. in fantastic forms.

among them, Vases of flowers, monkeys, faces, all in shells. They said the room was formerly arranged so that jets of water poured out from almost every part of the walls, one small place only remaining dry, and they told the story, that when the old Elector wished particularly to distinguish any lady, he would take her with him upon this place, and giving the signal for the water to be turned on, gave every one else a thorough wetting. The cabinets are very large & rich, especially in fossils.

The story is devoted to suites of apartments of the Professors of Natural History, their families & their lecture rooms. Dr. Roemer took us to his rooms, most pleasant chambers, with a lovely view - the little botanic garden making the foreground, & the famous Siebengebirge (Seven Mountains) & the Drachenfels on the most conspicuous (vide Byron), across the Rhine, making the background, rich fields of grain lying between. It was one of the most lovely & striking views I ever saw. The botanic garden ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{is} ~~on~~ ^{is} the continent, thus far have I not been quite in concert with Cambridge again; the latter dwindled to insignificance at London. There I sympathized with poor Prof. Beck & his protegee Prof. Trevisanus - the old botanical professor, with whom Dr. Roemer had been spending the afternoon) had joined us, and after the museums we went over the garden, & thence back to the hotel, just at dusk, meeting Madame Trevisanus on the way, with whom I conversed in most elegant French, which she ~~had~~ ^{had} Prof. Trevisanus & Dr. Roemer (who has been in U.S.) spoke English. &

The hotel is full of English. - One English lady seeing I was suffering with my eyes, kindly stopped to ask about them, - advised me to use laudanum, and afterwards took the pains to come to my room & bring me some. Both she & her husband were very pleasant & I hope we may meet them again.

Tuesday morning we left Bonn in the steam boat up the Rhine, passing through all its most beautiful scenery. I made a determination I would look at nothing, which I kept pretty well at first (except at Drachenfels) as long as it was comparatively tame; but it was soon impossible to resist, when we got to Coblenz, & especially between Coblenz & Bingen, when the river wound through such bold mountain gorges, with old ruins & castles crowning almost every projecting point; and my eyes did not suffer as much as feared they might. At first I was disappointed, & thought the scenery not as fine as that of the highlands of the Hudson; but afterwards it grew very bold & grand, and the numerous ruins & old castles are extremely beautiful, and came fully up to my idea. It seemed like a dream to be passing through scenes so much sung and written about. Still I must say that anything would be prettier than vineyard. - For the vine being raised chiefly on rocky terraces, and trained on sticks not as high as a decent sized bean pole, gives at a small distance rather a ~~bare~~ ^{bare} appearance. I was surprised too at the dearth of trees. [Jane is packing up, and says she cannot dictate any longer. We had the table white on deck of the steam boat, in the midst of the finest scenery. - Reached Bingen at the upper end of the deep gorge through which the Rhine passes, at 6 o'clock. - while Jane rested I climbed the Rochers, by behind, and had a magnificent sunset view - the principal hotels are all full - we got comfortable quarters at the Englischer Hof - a truly German Hotel with which tho. far from stylish, we have every reason to be pleased. The view ^{from the hill above} embraces the whole Rheingau - or region that yields the

Upper Rhine - river. Rudesheim being nearly opposite
Kaiserstein, & Wattenheim, just above - - & from the hill over
the town gives a good view of Johannisberg, Steinberg, & a vast
country to the south, where the Rhine passes thro. a
futile level country. ^(remember the Rhine flows north) This morning I came went
up with me - as far as the chapel which commands one
of the finest views, but the weather is cloudy with a
little rain, & the view, beautiful as it is, is restricted -
came back to breakfast, - to which we did ample justice.
The following day - tho. favorable to Sam's eyes - forbids our
crossing the Rhine & ascending to get the view from the Nieder-
wald, above Rudesheim. So we take the boat.

my
Bienne, Switzerland, Tuesday Evening, July 30.th

It is a long time, dear Papa, that my journal has
been interrupted; but my eyes have not got along as well
as I had hoped when D.G. last laid down the pen; and he
must still write for me. [He would willingly have kept writing
day by day; but it has not been easy to secure time; and
above all he has feared that his horribly obscure handwriting,
which really grows more and more - would prove too trying
for any one's patience.] We are so far behindhand
now that we can only give brief & general notices of our
proceedings.

Well. Tuesday morning of last week, we took a steam-
boat as it passed Bingen on its way up the Rhine (quicker
little things these steam-boats are to an American eye) per-
haps $\frac{1}{3}$ of the size of one of Hudson River, and a common
deck with an awning, and plain wooden seats, the only pleas-
ant place to sit, and such mixtures of all nations, the greater
part English. ~~What~~ As to the Germans, I know not what for

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we would do, with their interminable smoking. —
We passed by Rudesheim, Stattenheim, &c. and left the boat
at Biebrich, a few miles below Mayence - took the rail-road
which joins Wiesbaden & Mayence with Frankfurt, and reached
this city at 4 o'clock P.M. (Hotel de Russie)

Lane has gone to bed, and
will soon be sound asleep. — no doubt — having accomplished
a long journey. Deprived of her dictation, I (A. G.) must
just give you a brief & bare *carte de visite* of our
last week's doings, and Lane must detail her
observations on matters and things, at greater leisure and with
better eyes. On this account she did not go out on Tuesday
in Frankfurt. I roamed over the queer old town, sought
Dr. Fresenius, — heard he had gone to Switzerland; but it
proved the next day at noon that it was a cousin of
the same name, and he called on us. —

Wednesday morning we went to Mr. Böttcher's to see Lan-
naker's beautiful statue of Ariadne — probably the very
finest modern statue — and Lane was most delighted with
it. — and after strolling through the more ancient parts of
the city, went thro' ~~the~~ the Cathedral, which is neither
large nor elegant; but remarkable as the place where some
sixty German Emperors have been crowned; and for curious
effigies & memorials of some of them.

Geneva.

I got too sleepy to write at all plain, & went to bed. —
To continue with great brevity. After looking about
Frankfurt & seeing Prof. Fresenius, came back to hotel,
and at dinner we were recognized by Dr. Jerome V. C. Smith
of Boston (with his wife &c.) — who told us the startling news of

the death of our President, and the confession of the wretched
Prof. Nobles. That afternoon we rode on by railway thro'
Karlsruhe to Heidelberg, had an hour & a quarter, which
we devoted to ascending to the Castle in a carriage, & in
viewing one of the most picturesque and imposing ruins, & seeing
from its terraces one of the loveliest views that ever was seen.
Our plan will bring us back to Heidelberg again. Down the
Neckar, on our return from Munich: when Jane, with better
eyes, may renew her acquaintance with a scene that
enjoyed delighted greatly, as it surprised her, for somehow I
had not led her to expect anything so fine (tho' I highly
enjoyed it long ago). - Coming back to the station, we
went on two hours more to Karlsruhe that evening, -
got into grand quarters at the Hotel d'Angleterre, most
sumptuous apartments, which made us fear an inflammation
of the bill: the latter however proved to be quite moderate.

Thursday morning, after an early breakfast, went
on by rail-road to Kehl, left our baggage & took a
carriage over the bridge of boats, across the river of ~~the~~
French Republic (?) into Strasburg. - Saw Schimper,
went to a hotel, Jane rested till dinner. - Then, went to
the Cathedral, viewed the grand front of this imposing struc-
ture, and the wonderful spire, the tallest in the world, -
were much struck with the grandeur of the interior, which
lighted by stained glass the greater part of it 400 or 500 years
old. After visiting the Museum of Nat. Hist. and arranging
with Schimper to meet him in Switzerland, where he is
to pass, with his wife (a Swiss lady) a long vacation,
we took our carriage & returned to the Baden side of
the river, and came on to ~~Strasbourg~~ that evening, reaching
it in a rain. Having the good fortune to arrive early from
the station, we were shown into the best room in the ~~Hotel~~

Hotel. - while the English clergyman, wife & friend who were so
white & kind to us at Bonn, were obliged to take up with ^{very} inferior
accommodations. - Prof. Braum, on calling next day &
noticing our apartment, told us that when last he was in it -
a week before - it was occupied by the Prince of Prussia.
Still it was not so well appointed as that at Karlsruhe -
It cost only 5 florins ~~to~~ for 3 days. = \$2.00. - Prof. Braum
(the brother of the former Mrs. Agassiz) was very kind to us,
He is a very interesting man, of charming manners; his wife very
sweet and charming, his children most engaging. Saturday
afternoon we took a carriage and with Prof. Braum rode
up a beautiful valley to the Hölenthal (Fr. Valle
d'Enfer), a rocky and wooded gorge of very striking scenery,
- wild & majestic, rather than terrible as its name imports.

Sunday morning. Visited the beautiful old Cathedral
during service, heard the music, and came back in time
for both of us to attend the English service held by Mr.
Bunnell, the English Clergyman in the hotel. In the af-
ternoon Jane and I visited the ~~Cathedral~~ Cathedral
one of the finest, ^{and best} in Europe that is well preserved. Here nearly
every part, and all the stained glass, of a most curious kind,
is perfectly preserved; and the spire, tho' not so high as that
of Strasburg, is as elaborate and light, - as it were of woven
stone threads, - and even more beautiful. Jane had before
a good view of the exterior, yesterday, as we drove round it on
returning from the Hölenthal. At evening we went down
to Braum's house to tea - one of his colleagues wife joined us,
and another friend, who spoke tolerable English; and we had a
charming evening.

Monday morning. Braum & I climbed the hill E. of
the little town for a fine view of all Brisgau (we had already
climbed the Schlossberg on the South side); & returning, we
took the cars for Basle - (at the end 8 miles in the omnibus).

Spent the afternoon & night at the great Hotel Trois Rois on the banks of the Rhine (Prof. Meisner being on a journey to England). The Lord before this decided, especially as the ride to Hiltenthal, appeared to have an unfavorable effect on Lavin's eyes - that we would not go from Basle to Zurich & go into the Bernese Oberland, but lay still & repair from using them till they should get quite well. This could be best done at Geneva, where I could be employing the time well in DeCandolle's herbarium. And afterward we can take the R.R., nearly as well, recasting & transposing it a little. From 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Tuesday we rode from Basle to Birmen (56 miles) in diligence through the Münster Thal, the grandest & most picturesque scenery of the Rhine, & Jane was able to see it pretty well. - Was tired, but here the ride will ^{along Lake of Birmen & Hiltenthal}

Wednesday. A ride of 3 ~~hours~~ ^{hours} brought us to Neuchâtel at 11 o'clock. A.M. - The Berthoud were in the country, 3 leagues off from us. ~~for Jane preferred to return here later.~~ Prof. Lindt, who received me most cordially took me (with Mr. Coulton) up the Chaumont, 2500 feet, but the Alps were obscured by clouds, at least all the higher alps. - & we had no fine view of them; otherwise the view was very fine. - The return by the great boulder & Pierre a-Bot. All asked after Agassiz with much interest. Excursions are planned for us when we return. * *

Thursday. Steamboat down the lake to Yverdon; Diligence to Lausanne; & then Steamboat down the Lake of Geneva to Geneva; a fine time. Settled most comfortably at Hotel des Bergues. -

Friday. To-day (Aug. 2nd) found DeCandolle, who has kindly assisted us about everything, called here to see Jane. - Shall see other acquaintances to-morrow, & go off to work. Have looked about with Jane & enjoyed the fine view of the lake & near mountains from our windows. But Mt. Blanc is still veiled. Greatly disappointed at finding no letters here from home: tho' they were to be sent here by Mr. Ward. I must leave soon for a few words from Jane - whose eyes are vastly better to-day - even before the distinguished oculist & physician Dr. ^{Maunoir} ~~Maunoir~~, (who married a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Jarvis, formerly of Boston) has yet come to see them. - We hope she will soon be able to write, & give you from day to day all the bits of intelligence & other remarks upon things which constantly amuse or interest us. Believe me to remain. Ever Yours

To All the beloved! affectionately & faithfully

Saturday Morn'g.
Dr. Maunoir has just called, & thinks there is no very serious trouble but that may soon be removed - Inflammation of the mucous membrane, I think he said. He is very pleasant - Asked greatly about Dr. Jackson having known him through his son James whom he knew well in Paris - I do hope I may soon be able to write again, for I miss it very much. & Dr. Gray fears you cannot read his writing, besides its taking so much of his time. Most of the time when he is flying about, walking & visiting, I am quietly in our rooms & as I must be idle, it is sometimes rather tiresome, & I long so much to sit & have a quiet chat with you all - I try to fancy what you are all doing in Beverly, in Boston, in Litchfield. I am certainly greatly improved in health, & to my great delight gaining flesh - It is very tantalizing to pass through this beautiful scenery with my eyes shut - I felt almost like crying when I came down the Lake of Geneva, for then I could look at nothing - I long so too to tell about a thousand things one forgets if they put off! I think if you trace our route on a map it will help you much. - I am longing for letters. We have had by some mistake none for a fortnight -

I try write sometimes some of the general news for we seem to hear nothing though we are in the way of English papers. I must tender love to all from your ever aff. Jane.